



## State of Tennessee

### SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 445

By Herron

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Jennie Patton, the head coach of the York Institute baseball team.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those coaches who have performed their duties with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm and who, through their magnificent exploits, have brought honor to this State; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable coach is Jennie Patton who, this season, was named as the head coach of the baseball team at York Institute; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Patton is currently the only female head baseball coach in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, an alumna of York Institute, Jennie Patton's passion for baseball began when she served as the team's scorekeeper in 1974; and

WHEREAS, though there were not as many athletic opportunities for women at the time, Ms. Patton held on to her dream of one day becoming a Tennessee high school baseball coach; and

WHEREAS, she attended Vanderbilt University, for which she played and coached basketball when it was still a club sport. She has also coached youth league baseball in Jamestown and White County; and

WHEREAS, though many people scoffed at the idea of a woman coaching baseball, Jennie Patton was hired by the Chicago White Sox as a talent scout from 1988-1991; and

WHEREAS, she served with acumen and alacrity as a scout for the Milwaukee Brewers in 1992, as a scout for the Chicago Cubs from 1994-2002, and, from 1994-1997, served as an assistant coach at Enterprise State Junior College in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, many of Ms. Patton's baseball jobs were non-paying or nearly so, so she served in several other positions in order to pay her bills, including serving as a lifeguard, substitute teacher, bartender, house painter, house cleaner, and delivery driver; and

WHEREAS, she returned to the sport in 2010 as an assistant coach for the baseball team at York Institute; and

WHEREAS, Jennie Patton was promoted to the head coach position of York's baseball team after her cousin, Brett Patton, resigned from the position to spend more time with his family; and

WHEREAS, after more than thirty years of admirable patience, hard work, and determination, Jennie Patton has overcome adversity to finally achieve her dream of serving as a baseball coach and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend the York Institute baseball team's head coach, Jennie Patton, applaud her for her life's work and for overcoming many hardships to reach her goals, and extend to her our best wishes for every continued success in all her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 445

ADOPTED: May 20, 2011

  
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RON RAMSEY  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

  
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BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 2nd day of June 2011

  
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BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR